

Pulaski High School Choir Syllabus

2017-2018



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Preface

The Pulaski High School Music Department is dedicated to providing students with the highest quality music education available. The goal is to instill in each student the concepts of work ethic, time management, appropriate peer socialization, and above all, a love and passion for the artistry of making music. Communication and cooperation between students, parents, and the director is the key to success.

Participation in the PHS Choirs provides students with the opportunity to improve individual vocal techniques, strengthen music theory and sight-reading skills, and increase their knowledge of music history. Students will learn choral literature in a variety of styles, and will be able to participate in the Wisconsin School Music Association Solo and Ensemble Festival. Most importantly all music lovers will have fun and benefit from the many positive ways choir can impact a person's life!

September 5, 2017

Dear Choir Families,

Welcome back for the 2017-18 school year. I am very excited to be starting a new adventure with your children and being back in the Pulaski schools. I look forward to all the year has in store. Please see the attached calendar of events to view the many great opportunities planned for the upcoming school year. Please review the dates listed and add them to your family calendar. In addition, you will find information on the choir grading procedure and choir class expectations. The attached commitment form should be returned no later than Friday, September 15th.

I look forward to seeing and meeting all of you throughout the year.

Please accept my thanks and appreciation in advance for the support that you provide for your child(ren). It is your support and encouragement that allow the music program to grow and make it possible for us to offer wonderful musical learning opportunities for your student(s). If you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me by email kabrown@pulaskischool.org or by phone at (920) 822-6826

Musically yours,

Mrs. Brown

Expectations

- 1.** It is my goal to make sure that every one of my choir students and their families understand that they hold a very important place in the choir program and to make sure that they feel welcome at all times. It is this sense of belonging that allows the students to take pride in their work as an individual and as an ensemble member and to create musical memories that will last a lifetime. To facilitate this sense of belonging I emphasize the following expectations of character development in my classroom: **Respect, Listen, Focus, Teamwork, & Self Control.**
- 2.** It is each student's responsibility to take care of their own music. If lost or damaged, you will be charged for the folder and its contents. Be sure to have your folder/music, as well as a pencil, at all rehearsals.
- 3.** There will be no food, drink or gum allowed in this room without prior approval. Please keep all rehearsal areas neat and clean.
- 4.** Arrive on time. Be in place your place with your folder, music, and pencil when the bell rings.
- 5.** Report any inability to sing due to illness or injury before class begins. Your participation level will be decided that day by Mrs. Brown.
- 6.** Backpacks, books, and purses will be put on the white shelves when students come into the classroom. Students should only have their folders, music, and pencils at their seats.
- 7.** Disorderly behavior and abusive language will not be tolerated. No talking while we are singing, while another section is singing, or while the teacher is talking.

Grading Policies

1. Your grade will be determined using the following format:

Concert Choir Grading system

Terms	Concert Participation 100 points	Rehearsal Participation 5 pts. each	Lesson Participation (approx. 8 per quarter) 10 pts. each	Written Reflections 15 pts. each	Quizzes (written or performance) 10 pts. each
Qtr1	Red Raider Showcase 35%	20%	20%	15%	10%
Qtr2	Holiday Concert & Chiliriffic 35%	20%	20%	15%	10%
Qtr3	Solo & Ensemble & Music 4 Moderns 35%	20%	20%	15%	10%
Qtr4	Spring Concert 35%	20%	20%	15%	10%

2. Participation in concerts is mandatory. You will receive a **0** if you have an **unexcused absence** from a concert and will not be able to make up the points. **Excused absences** are illness or emergency and an alternate assignment will be given in order to make up the points. You still **must** bring in a note from home explaining your absence within two class periods after you return to school.

Concert Attire

The PHS Choir tuxes and dresses are to be treated with the utmost care. When not being worn they are to be neatly hung and placed in the Choir closet. Any mistreatment of an outfit on the part of a student will result in consequences and the possibility of paying for any necessary cleaning, pressing, repair, or replacement of the outfit. All women will have to order and pay for black character shoes (order form is attached). All show choir women will have to order and pay for black jazz shoes (order form is attached). **ALL STUDENTS NEED TO HAVE A PAIR OF BLACK DRESS PANTS TO WEAR FOR OTHER PERFORMANCES WHEN THESE FORMAL OUTFITS ARE NOT WORN! (Yoga pants and leggings DO NOT count as dress pants).**

The required dress for concerts is:

Concert Choir Men:

- Black tuxedos and black bow ties (*school provides*)
- White dress shirt under the tux coat (*you may wear your own but the school does have these*)
- Black dress shoes (*you provide*)
- Black dress socks (*you provide*)

Concert & Treble Choir Women:

- Black dresses (*school provides*)
- **Black** nylons (*you provide*)
- Black character shoes (*you will purchase these through the choir*)

Chamber Choir Men: (*you need to provide all of this for yourself*)

- Black dress pants
- Black button-up dress shirt
- Black dress socks
- Black dress shoes
- Colored tie

Chamber Choir Women: (*you need to provide all of this for yourself*)

- Black dress pants or black dress skirt **AT THE KNEES OR BELOW**
- Black dress shirt
- Black dress socks/knee-highs/nylons

- Black character shoes
- Colored accessory of some sort (scarf, headband, hair piece, pin)
- Only jewelry: stud earrings

Show Choir:

- Black dress pants or nice black yoga pants that flare out past the knee
- Black shirt that is appropriate to dance in (long enough to cover midriff when arms are raised in the air)
- Black jazz shoes for the women (*you will purchase these through the school*)
- Black tennis shoes for the guys (*you will provide these on your own*)

For all Choir members:

- ***Hair back, out of face, either in bobby pins, clips, or rubber bands. (Please make sure any bobby pins, clips, or rubber bands worn in the hair are close to the color of the student's hair.)***
- ***No jewelry, with the exception of plain stud earrings (only if necessary).***
- ***No nail polish***

****NEVER, EVER are jeans and t-shirts acceptable for any concert, except Red Raider Showcase. Students will be asked to change if they arrive in inappropriate dress for the concert.**

Attire for Solo and Ensemble solos, duets, and small ensembles:

For solo and ensemble large group choir events, students will wear their required concert outfits. However, for solos, duets, and small ensembles, they are allowed to wear something of their choosing. However, it must fit the following criteria, with the exclusion of music theatre solos:

Men:

Dress pants, Dress shirt, Dress shoes, & Dress socks

Women:

Dress pants or dress skirt at the knees or below (*no leggings worn as pants please*)

Dress with sleeves and at the knees or below

Dress shirt with sleeves
Nothing low-cut at the neck
Nothing showing midriff or too tight
Dress shoes
Dress socks/nylons

For all Choir members:

Hair back, out of face, either in bobby pins, clips, or rubber bands. (Please make sure any bobby pins, clips, or rubber bands worn in the hair are close to the color of the student's hair.)

Small jewelry can be worn, but it is discouraged

No nail polish

Attire for the National Anthem:

The Star Spangled Banner is an anthem that embodies honor and respect for our country. Students who perform it at school and athletic events are expected to dress in an appropriate fashion, respecting and following school policies for the dress code.

PHS Choir Solo and Ensemble Requirement

All Choir students are required to participate in the WSMA Solo and Ensemble Festival. They will be part of a large group that performs at the event. Every student is required to learn a solo from the list as part of their lessons, but they do not have to perform it at Solo and Ensemble. Students may choose to perform a Class A solo only if he or she previously received a score of a 1 on a Class B solo.

For music theatre solos, students are required to first receive at 1* on their Class A classical solo before they may perform a musical theatre solo the following year.

PHS Choir Fundraising

Additional funds are often required if the choir is planning to do something special, such as a trip. Fundraising is a way of helping students fund this type of activity. Since it is meant as assistance, it is optional. However, since some of the funds are used for Solo and Ensemble medals and other awards, each student is encouraged to do their part. Each student has an individual fundraising account, which is similar to a bank account, without the interest. All profits that the student makes is placed in their individual account, which is periodically posted by the choir treasurer. The student may use that money to help pay for shoes, a trip, or a choir camp.

Students who graduate may leave their money to the choir to help pay for awards or transfer it to a sibling or relative. Students who drop choir forfeit their right to transfer any money that they have in their account and it will be used to help pay for awards. No student is allowed to receive this money in the form of cash.

The Pulaski Music Boosters

The music directors and the music boosters organization have set up the following procedures for communicating information to all members:

Pulaski Music Boosters Weekly Trumpet:

An electronic newsletter from the Boosters. The newsletter contains a list of important dates, articles and information on all events and activities of the music program. Separate sections are dedicated to the Band, Ensembles, and Choral students' announcements and activities.

Music Booster Meetings:

General booster meetings of the music boosters are held monthly at Pulaski High School. In addition to conducting the business of the organization, a large segment of the meeting is devoted to providing information on various events and activities. The directors are present

as well. Attendance at the general meetings is encouraged. Meetings are normally held the 2nd Monday of every month at 7pm.

www.pulaskimusicboosters.com is another location that is full of information.

**Parents are encouraged to become members of the Music Boosters organization. All Boosters are encouraged to volunteer their time and effort in the support of these young people. In the past, the Music Boosters have paid for the District and State Solo and Ensemble entrance fees (1 solo can be up to \$20!) and they pay for the medals the students receive for Solo and Ensemble.

Have fun!

Volunteer!

Socialize!

Support our entire PHS Music Program!

Choir Get-Togethers

The choir council likes to plan get-togethers for the high school choir and also with the 8th grade choir. These will be decided throughout the year. They are not required, but all choir students are encouraged to attend. We will probably be asking for some students to bring food to share at these events. They are generally held at PHS in the choir room.

CHOIR DEPARTMENT CALENDAR
2017 - 2018

- Oct. 13, 2017 National Anthem at Fall Festival Football game at 7 pm
- Nov. 4 & 5, 2017 Red Raider Showcase 7 pm
- Dec. 16, 2017 Sounds of the Season Concert
(Chamber Choir, Concert Choir) 7 pm
- Dec. 18, 2017 Holiday Concert (Treble Choir) 7 pm
- Jan. 28, 2018 Chilirific Musicpalooza time TBA
- Feb. 10, 11, 17, & 18, 2018 PHS Musical - participation by audition
(not a choir requirement)
- Mar. 3, 2018 Solo & Ensemble at PHS
- Mar. 16, 2018 Music for Moderns Concert 7 pm
- April 30, 2018 Honors Recital 6:30 pm
- May 5, 2018 State Solo & Ensemble at UWGB
(only for state qualifiers)
- May 20, 2018 Spring Choir Concert 3 pm
- May 30, 2018 PHS Graduation 7 pm
(Concert Choir only)

Please complete this form and return to Mrs. Brown by Friday, September 15th.

Pulaski Choir Commitment Form

We have read the concert attendance policy and understand that Grace Christiansen _____

(Student Name)

is responsible for attending the required concerts per the choir department calendar for the 2017-18 School Year. We have added the dates to our family calendar and are aware that concert attendance is part of the choir grade. If he/she will be missing a concert we will follow the correct concert attendance policy previously stated in this handbook.

Student Signature Grace Christiansen _____ **Date**
____9/14/2017_____

Parent Signature Lisa Christiansen _____ **Date**
____9/14/2017_____